

ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT
Candidacy Annual Progress Report Review – Appeal

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology has reviewed the program's annual candidacy progress report from August 2021, documents for further consideration from August 2022, and the report of the appeal panel, and took the following accreditation action at its May 22 – 23, 2023, meeting, as indicated below.

Name of Program: Xavier University of Louisiana

File #: 337

Professional Area:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Audiology
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Speech-Language Pathology

Modality:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Residential
<input type="checkbox"/>	Distance Education
<input type="checkbox"/>	Satellite Campus
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contractual Arrangement

Degree Designator(s): MS

Current Candidacy Cycle: 07/01/2019 – 06/30/2024

Action Taken: Continue Candidacy

Effective Date: May 23, 2023

Next Review: Initial Accreditation Application due August 1, 2023

Notices: The program is advised to adhere to the following notices that are appended to this report.

- PROGRAM COMPLIANCE EXPECTATIONS
- PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF DECISION AND ACCREDITATION STATUS

Date of Decision: May 23, 2023

The CAA conducted its comprehensive review in the context of the institutional and program mission statements and in consideration of the credentials for which the program is preparing students and determined that the program demonstrated sufficient compliance with the Standards for Accreditation of Graduate Education Programs in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology as noted in the candidacy compliance continuum, except as noted below.

The program filed its second annual progress report in August 2021. Based on the review of that report, the CAA deferred its decision for additional information in Fall 2021 and subsequently conducted a focused site visit to the program in February 2022. Based on the review of the annual progress report and requested deferral information, the focused site visit report and response, and the additional information provided for further consideration in August 2022, the CAA voted to withdraw candidacy at its September 2022 meeting.

In December 2022, the program exercised its right to appeal. In March 2023, an appeal hearing was held at the ASHA National Office. A report from the appeal panel was received in April 2023, stating that the appeal panel found that the program “satisfied the requirements of Standards 3.1B and 3.6B,” and remanded the case to the CAA for further proceedings consistent with the panel’s decision.

At its May 22-23, 2023 meeting, the CAA voted to accept the program’s annual report from August 2021, accept the appeal panel’s report, uphold the decision of the appeal panel, and uphold the appeal panel’s recommendations that the program has met the expected level of compliance for Standards 3.1B and 3.6B based on the findings in the report. The CAA voted to reverse its decision to withdraw candidacy, and for the program to remain in candidacy for the full duration of the candidacy term, with the following standards to address as follow-up in their application for initial accreditation.

While programs in candidacy follow the Standards Compliance Continuum, the CAA is requesting that the program provide additional information for the following standards to be included in its application for initial accreditation.

Standard 3.1B An effective entry-level professional speech-language pathology program allows each student to acquire knowledge and skills in sufficient breadth and depth to function as an effective, well-educated, and competent clinical speech-language pathologist (i.e., one who can practice within the full scope of practice of speech-language pathology). The education program is designed to afford each student with opportunities to meet the expectations of the program that are consistent with the program’s mission and goals and that prepare each student for professional practice in speech-language pathology.

Requirement(s) of the Standard to be met:

The master’s program in speech-language pathology must perform the following functions.

- ***Provide the opportunity for students to complete a minimum of 400 supervised clinical practice hours, 25 of which may be in clinical observation; 325 of these hours must be attained at the graduate level. The supervised clinical experiences should be distributed throughout the program of study.***
- ***The program must provide sufficient breadth and depth of opportunities for students to obtain a variety of clinical education experiences in different work settings, with different populations, and with appropriate equipment and resources in order to acquire and demonstrate skills across the scope of practice in speech-language pathology, sufficient to enter professional practice. Typically, the achievement of these outcomes requires the completion of 2 years of graduate education or the equivalent.***
- ***Establish a clear set of program goals and objectives that must be met for students to acquire the knowledge and skills needed for entry into professional practice.***
- ***Offer opportunities for each student to acquire the knowledge and skills needed for entry into***

professional practice, consistent with the scope of practice for speech-language pathology, and across the range of practice settings.

- Offer high quality learning environments that are learner centered, knowledge and skill centered, and assessment centered.
- Offer the academic and clinical program on a regular basis so that students are able to satisfy degree and other requirements within the program's published time frame.
- Offer opportunities for students to qualify for state and national credentials that are required for entry into professional practice, consistent with the program's mission and goals (e.g., state license, state teacher certification, national credential).

CAA reason for request for additional information: The CAA Appeal Panel found that the program "...met the minimum standards set for in Standard 3.1B under the extraordinary, unprecedented circumstances that were presented by the pandemic..." and "...that the Record reveals that the program reached a base level of compliance with Standard 3.1B."

As part of its information submitted for appeal in December 2022, the program provided information outside of the official Record which was accessible to the appeal panel. The CAA Appeal Panel reported that it was "favorably impressed" by the measure taken to remediate the issues created by the pandemic that were called to their attention by the CAA and focused site visit team. In accordance with its policies and procedures for an appeal, the CAA was only able to consider information provided by the program prior to its decision in September 2022. The program must include the information related to Standard 3.1B from its appeal submitted in December 2022 in its initial accreditation application so that the CAA may consider it in its review of the application. The program should also provide additional updates (occurring after December 2022) that show continued compliance in this area.

Standard 3.6B The clinical education component of an effective entry-level speech-language pathology program is planned for each student so that there is access to a base of individuals who may be served that is sufficient to achieve the program's stated mission and goals and includes a variety of clinical settings, populations, and age groups. The comprehensive clinical experiences must include direct contact with individuals seeking service, consultation, recordkeeping, and administrative duties relevant to professional service delivery in speech-language pathology.

Requirement(s) of the Standard to be met:

- The program must demonstrate that it has mechanisms to develop comprehensive plans of clinical educational experiences so that each student has an opportunity to
 - **experience the breadth and depth of clinical practice,**
 - **obtain experiences with diverse populations,**
 - **obtain a variety of clinical experiences in different work settings,**
 - obtain experiences with appropriate equipment and resources,
 - learn from experienced speech-language pathologists who will serve as effective clinical educators.

CAA reason for request for additional information: The CAA Appeal Panel found that Standard 3.6B was met and that clinical practicum hours were "minimally adequate under the circumstances" presented by the pandemic.

As part of its information submitted for appeal in December 2022, the program provided information outside of the official Record which was accessible to the appeal panel. The CAA Appeal Panel reported that it was

“favorably impressed” by the measure taken to remediate the issues created by the pandemic that were called to their attention by the CAA and focused site visit team. In accordance with its policies and procedures for an appeal, the CAA was only able to consider information provided by the program prior to its decision in September 2022. The program must include the information related to Standard 3.6B from its appeal submitted in December 2022 in its initial accreditation application so that the CAA may consider it in its review of the application. The program should also provide additional updates (occurring after December 2022) that show continued compliance in this area.

PERFORMANCE WITH RESPECT TO STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The CAA has evaluated this program regarding its performance with respect to student achievement and provides the following report, required as an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education [34 CFR 602.17(f)].

Comments/Observations:

<i>The CAA assessed the program's performance with respect to student achievement and found the program to meet or exceed the established CAA expectations (as described in accreditation standard 5.0-Assessment) in the following checked areas. Details regarding any of these areas found to be <u>not</u> in compliance are described earlier in this report in the context of the relevant standard.</i>	
n/a	Program Completion Rates
n/a	Employment Rates
n/a	Praxis Examination Rates

PROGRAM COMPLIANCE EXPECTATIONS

As an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education, the CAA must comply with Criterion §602.20 [34 CFR 602.20]. This criterion requires that if an accrediting agency's review of a program indicates that the program is not in compliance with any standard, the CAA must provide a written timeline to the program to come into compliance that is reasonable, as determined by the CAA, based on the nature of the finding, the stated mission, and educational objectives of the program. The timeline may include intermediate checkpoints on the way to full compliance and must not exceed three years for programs, regardless of professional area. If the review of a second consecutive report reveals that issues continue for the same standard(s) and the program remains not in full compliance with all standards, the CAA may act to place the program on probation or withdraw its accreditation status in accordance with the policy and procedures outlined in the [Accreditation Handbook](#). The CAA may place a program on probation or withdraw accreditation from a program prior to this time when there is clear evidence of circumstances that jeopardize the capability of the program to provide acceptable educational experiences for the students.

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THIS DECISION AND ACCREDITATION STATUS

The CAA publishes a notice of final accreditation actions on its website after comprehensive reviews are completed in accordance with its published policies. In the event an adverse action is taken and becomes final (i.e., withdrawal or withholding of an accreditation status), the CAA is required to publish a brief statement summarizing the reasons for withholding or withdrawing the accreditation status of a program, together with the comments, if any, that the affected program may wish to make.

The Criteria for Recognition by the U.S. Secretary of Education requires all recognized accrediting agencies to provide for the public correction of incorrect or misleading information an accredited or preaccredited program releases about accreditation or preaccreditation status, contents of site visit reports, and accrediting or preaccrediting actions with respect to the program. [34 CFR 602.23(d) and 602.23(e)] The program must make accurate public disclosure of the accreditation or preaccreditation status awarded to the program, using the language provided in the [Accreditation Handbook](#) (see Chapter XII Informing the Public) on the academic accreditation website. If the program chooses to disclose any additional information within the scope of the ED rule, such disclosure also must be accurate. Any public disclosure of information within the scope of the rule must include the CAA's name, address, and telephone number as described in the [Accreditation Handbook](#). If an institution or program misrepresents or distorts any action by the CAA with respect to any aspect of the accreditation process, its accreditation status, the contents of the site visit report, or final CAA accreditation actions or decisions, the CAA will inform the chief executive officer of the institution and the program director

that corrective action must be taken. If corrective action is not taken, the CAA will release a public statement that provides correct information and may invoke other sanctions as may be appropriate.